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LRB102 18030 LAW 24907 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of pro-life  
4 activist Joseph Scheidler, who passed away on January 18,  
5 2021; and

6           WHEREAS, Joseph Scheidler was born to Matthias and  
7 Kathleen (Pursley) Scheidler in Hartford City, Indiana in  
8 1927; and

9           WHEREAS, Joseph Scheidler served in the U.S. Navy as a  
10 military policeman at the end of World War II and earned a  
11 bachelor's degree in communications at the University of Notre  
12 Dame and a master's degree at Marquette University; and

13           WHEREAS, Joseph Scheidler first worked as a teacher at  
14 Mundelein College, a women's school in Illinois, where he met  
15 his wife, Ann Crowley; and

16           WHEREAS, During his time at Mundelein College, Joseph  
17 Scheidler chaperoned a group of students on a pilgrimage to  
18 march with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma, Alabama  
19 to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965; and

20           WHEREAS, Following the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, Joseph

1 Scheidler decided to leave his professional career to dedicate  
2 his life to protecting the rights of the unborn and was known  
3 by many as the godfather of the Pro-Life movement; and

4 WHEREAS, Joseph Scheidler founded the Pro-Life Action  
5 League, a nonprofit organization, in 1980; its purpose was to  
6 recruit and equip pro-life Americans to be a voice for unborn  
7 children in their own communities throughout the country and  
8 around the world; and

9 WHEREAS, A victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in a  
10 landmark case entitled NOW v. Scheidler, involving the  
11 exercise and defense of First Amendment rights of freedom of  
12 speech and freedom of assembly, has helped to maintain the  
13 availability of these rights for Illinoisans and all  
14 Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, Joseph Scheidler is seen as a true inspiration  
16 and teacher to many current pro-life activists; and

17 WHEREAS, Joseph Scheidler is survived by his loving wife  
18 of 55 years, Ann; seven children; 26 grandchildren; and one  
19 great-granddaughter; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn the passing of Joseph Scheidler and extend our  
2 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all knew and  
3 loved him; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of Joseph Scheidler as an expression  
6 of our deepest sympathy.